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GIGI

MGM

THE NEW MUSICAL BY THE
COMPOSERS OF "MY FAIR LADY"

Only yesterday she was the funny,
little awkward girl called Gigi.

A Cecil Beaton costume sketch (right) becomes a gorgeous gown (above) for Leslie Caron.

"THANK HEAVEN FOR LITTLE GIRLS"

THE STORY

"Gigi" is the charmingly naughty story of a nice girl, Gigi (LESLIE CARON) who lives with her grandmama, Madame Alvarez (HERMIONE GINGOLD) in Paris at the turn of the century, when the city was at its gayest and the women at their most captivating. And its gentlemen, like the debonair, silver-haired Honore Lachaille (MAURICE CHEVALIER) the most adoring and appreciative of feminine beauty. Although definitely not the marrying kind, his amours are the talk of Paris. A lover extraordinaire, he is a collector of beautiful things, not antiques—young things.

(*Song: "THANK HEAVEN FOR LITTLE GIRLS"*)

His nephew, Gaston Lachaille (LOUIS JOURDAN) has inherited Honore's charm and is well on his way to becoming a worthy successor. When Gaston's latest flame, Madame d'Exelmans, the glamorous Liane (EVA

GABOR) is caught in an indiscretion with her skating instructor, Sandomir (JACQUES BERGERAC) her unsuccessful attempt at snuffing out her perfumed and bejeweled existence makes her another in a chain of lovely ladies willing to die to win a nod from the irresistible Gaston. But it leads only to Gaston sighing and singing:

(*Song: "IT'S A BORE"*)

For Lianne has never fooled him with her cajolery.

(*Song: "SHE IS NOT THINKING OF ME"*)

He does find life and loveliness at the home of Madame Alvarez and her little granddaughter, Gigi. The three have many good times together.

(*Song: "THE NIGHT THEY INVENTED CHAMPAGNE"*)

The natural charm of the girl and her utter disregard for Gaston's devastating attraction make her an enchanting playmate. The love making of the Parisians is all so much nonsense to her.

(*Song: "THE PARISIANS"*)

Gigi, however, doesn't have much time to play. She's much too busy with "lessons" from her Aunt Alicia (ISABEL JEANS). It is Aunt Alicia, who in her youth had kings and sultans sacrificing life and wealth to her, to whom Gigi's future training is entrusted. Gigi is to carry on the feminine tradition of charm, beauty and allure of the Alvarez women. Aunt Alicia is a lady who believes that "bad table manners have broken up more households than infidelity." It is she who trains Gigi in the art of eating a lobster, the value of great jewels, and how to pour a cup of coffee attractively enough to entice a gentleman into a protestation of undying love —and economic security. Marriage is not in their credo.

Romance *is*, as grandmama later reminds Honore, her old admirer, when they meet at Trouville, where Gaston has taken Gigi for an outing.

(*Song: Duet—"I REMEMBER IT WELL"*)

And so Gigi learns the art of pleasing and charming men. Gaston is the first to realize that Gigi is no longer a little girl, but a provocative young woman.

(*Song: "GIGI"*)

He invites her to supper at Paris' fashionable Maxim's restaurant, and Gigi is overjoyed.

(*Song: "SAY A PRAYER FOR ME TONIGHT"*)

At Gaston's proposal to make Gigi his "amour," grandmama and Aunt Alicia know they have done their work well. But Gigi, afraid she will lose Gaston after he has tired of her, refuses the offer. Gaston is crushed. He tells his woes to Honore, who sympathizes but can only shrug.

(*Song: "I'M GLAD I'M NOT YOUNG ANYMORE"*)

But later Gigi changes her mind and summons Gaston, who is touched by her tender admission—"I would rather be miserable with you than without you."

Still, Gaston is not happy. Just as Gigi is not grandmama nor Aunt Alicia, Gaston is not Uncle Honore. He, like Gigi, is really in love. And thus it comes about that Gigi breaks a family tradition. She is the first woman of the Alvarez family to accept a marriage proposal!

As Honore enjoys singing:

(*Song: "THANK HEAVEN FOR LITTLE GIRLS"*)

"I REMEMBER IT WELL"

PARIS IS A STAR

"Gigi," novelist Colette's reluctant coquette, first saw the light of print in Paris, and that's where her movie image came to life.

Producer Arthur Freed, Director Vincente Minnelli and composers Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe, of "My Fair Lady" fame, who wrote the lilting tunes for "Gigi," agreed that the major part of the MGM picture should be filmed in the French metropolis. The director and producer required little convincing. Ever since they filmed their Academy Award-winning "An American in Paris," they've had a crush on that gay city.

So Paris stars again in "Gigi," along with Leslie Caron, Maurice Chevalier, Louis Jourdan, Hermione Gingold, Eva Gabor, Jacques Bergerac and Isabel Jeans, with colorful glimpses of such places as St. Germain-des-Pres, Place Furstenberg and the Cour de Rohan.

Elbow room was at a premium when Director Minnelli filmed scenes in the famed Maxim's Restaurant—but food was not. The stars and extras dined on Maxim's duck, lobster and chicken. Contributing another note of authenticity were the waiters, honest-to-goodness Maxim's men used with special permission of the French Extras Association.

When sequences were filmed in the Palais de Glace ice rink in the Champ Elysees, the grips worked on skates and three men did nothing but swab down the underside of the balcony to keep it free of condensation. Ice water trickling down an actor's neck doesn't inspire a superior performance.

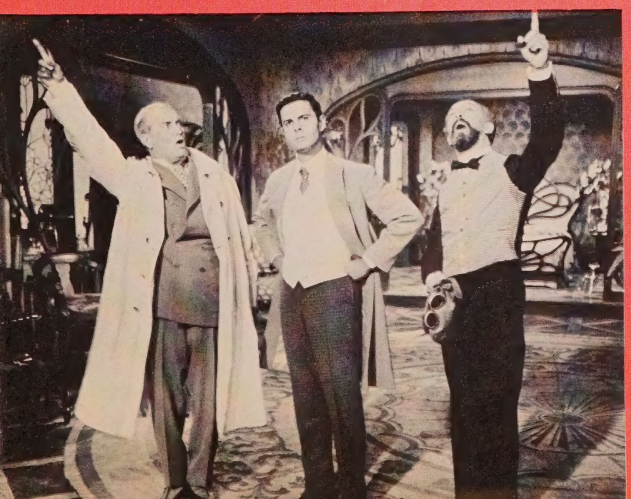
For the "Battle of Flowers" scene, re-enactment of an outdated Parisian festival in which bloom-bedecked carriages and floats pass in parade, 13 men worked all night to dress vehicles with lilies, gladiolas, violets, mimosa, dahlias, lilacs and poppies. All in all, more than 2,000,000 blossoms were used in this Bois de Boulogne spectacle.

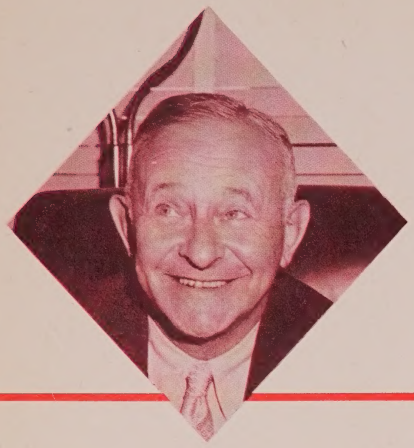
"THE PARISIANS"

They have Maxim's, they have "The Battle of the Flowers," they have the rendezvous at Trouville, they have love!

"Gigi, you've been growing up before my eyes."

"THE NIGHT THEY
INVENTED
CHAMPAGNE"



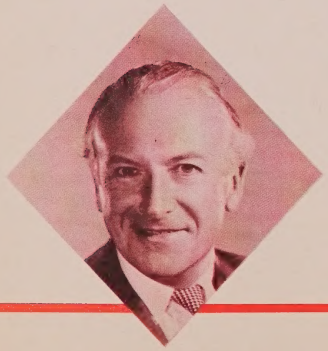


ARTHUR FREED

In recognition of his many distinguished contributions to the screen, Producer Arthur Freed received the Irving Thalberg Award of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in 1952. That year Freed's "An American in Paris" won the Oscar for the Best Production. He was also decorated by the French Legion of Honor. Freed's career included a period as piano player in a Chicago music-publishing house, singer in vaudeville, successful songwriter and play producer. Among his many MGM hits, all notable for good taste and entertainment qualities, are "Silk Stockings," "The Band Wagon," "Show Boat," "Annie Get Your Gun," "Easter Parade," and "Meet Me in St. Louis." Now he receives new accolades for "GIGI."

VINCENTE MINNELLI

One of Vincente Minnelli's mainsprings as a top Hollywood director is his versatility. He has directed such varied cinema fare as the Academy Award-winning "An American in Paris," "Lust for Life," "Tea and Sympathy," "Designing Woman," "Father of the Bride" and "GIGI." Born to a traveling tent show family, he worked his way up to the director's camp chair by way of costume and scenic designing, as well as staging and directing Broadway productions. To prepare for "GIGI" he spent three months in Paris, steeping himself in the literature, history and mores of the city at the turn of the century.



CECIL BEATON

Signing Cecil Beaton to create the settings and costumes for "GIGI" was a coup on the part of MGM. This marks the celebrated artist's first Hollywood venture. Beaton designed the costumes and stage decor for "My Fair Lady" and other of his stage assignments include "Portrait of a Lady," "Lady Windemere's Fan," "The Grass Harp," "Quadrille" and "The Chalk Garden." He also designed the sets and costumes for the new Gian-Carlo Menotti opera, "Vanessa." He is official photographer to the Court of St. James, a painter of distinction and a best-selling author.

THE SONGS
by
ALAN JAY LERNER and FREDERICK LOEWE

THANK HEAVEN FOR LITTLE GIRLS
Sung by Maurice Chevalier

IT'S A BORE
Sung by Maurice Chevalier and Louis Jourdan

THE PARISIANS
Sung by Leslie Caron

GOSSIP
Sung by Ensemble

WALTZ AT MAXIM'S (She Is Not Thinking of Me)
Sung by Louis Jourdan and Ensemble

THE NIGHT THEY INVENTED CHAMPAGNE
Sung by Leslie Caron, Louis Jourdan and Hermione Gingold

I REMEMBER IT WELL
Sung by Maurice Chevalier and Hermione Gingold

GIGI
Sung by Louis Jourdan

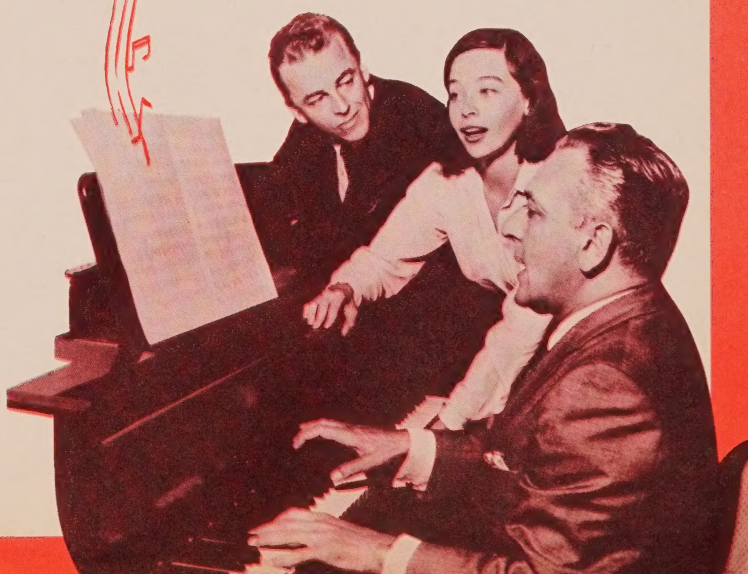
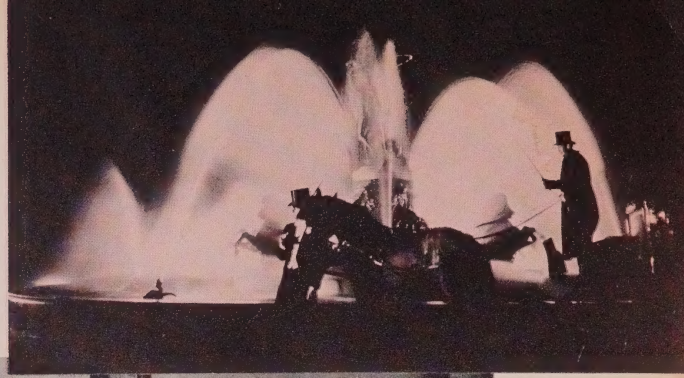
I'M GLAD I'M NOT YOUNG ANYMORE
Sung by Maurice Chevalier

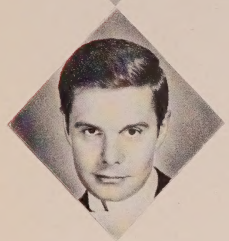
SAY A PRAYER FOR ME TONIGHT
Sung by Leslie Caron

Complete score of "Gigi" available in the MGM Records Original Cast Sound Track Album.

The association of Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe is unique in show business. Lerner, son of the late Joseph L. Lerner, president of the giant Lerner chain of women's wear, had to overcome wealth in order to be taken seriously in show business. He once wrote 500 radio scripts during a period of eighteen months.

Loewe, a child prodigy in Europe, was a concert pianist and composer at the age of nine. His solo appearance with the Berlin Symphony Orchestra won him the Hollander Medal, perhaps the most coveted prize in Europe for youthful musicians. But at one time, in order to earn a living in America, he resorted to everything from prizefighting to branding cattle on a Montana ranch.

Lerner and Loewe first collaborated in 1942, when Henry Duffy asked them to adapt "The Patsy" for a Detroit Stock Company. In 1943 they wrote their first Broadway production, "What's Up?", and followed with "The Day Before Spring," "Brigadoon," "Paint Your Wagon," "My Fair Lady," and now "GIGI."





The CAST

Gigi	LESLIE CARON
Honore Lachaille	MAURICE CHEVALIER
Gaston Lachaille	LOUIS JOURDAN
Mme. Alvarez	HERMIONE GINGOLD
Liane D'Exelmans	EVA GABOR
Sandomir	JACQUES BERGERAC
Aunt Alicia	ISABEL JEANS
Manuel	JOHN ABBOTT

Directed by VINCENTE MINNELLI

An ARTHUR FREED Production

Screen play and Lyrics by
ALAN JAY LERNER

Music by
FREDERICK LOEWE

Based on the Novel by COLETTE

Music supervised and conducted by
ANDRÉ PREVIN

Orchestrations by CONRAD SALINGER

Art Directors WILLIAM A. HORNING and PRESTON AMES

Costumes, Scenery & Production Design by CECIL BEATON

IN CINEMASCOPE AND METROCOLOR

Director of Photography	JOSEPH RUTTENBERG, A.S.C.
Set Decorations	HENRY GRACE & KEOGH GLEASON
Color Consultant	CHARLES K. HAGEDON
Assistant Directors	WILLIAM McGARRY AND WILLIAM SHANKS
Make-Up By	WILLIAM TUTTLE AND CHARLES PARKER
Film Editor	ADRIENNE FAZAN
Recording Supervisor	DR. WESLEY C. MILLER
Hair Styles By	GUILLAUME AND SYDNEY GUILAROFF
Vocal Supervision	ROBERT TUCKER

Presented by M-G-M

Additional copies of this souvenir book can be purchased from AL GREENSTONE CO., 246 West 44th St., New York City, N. Y.

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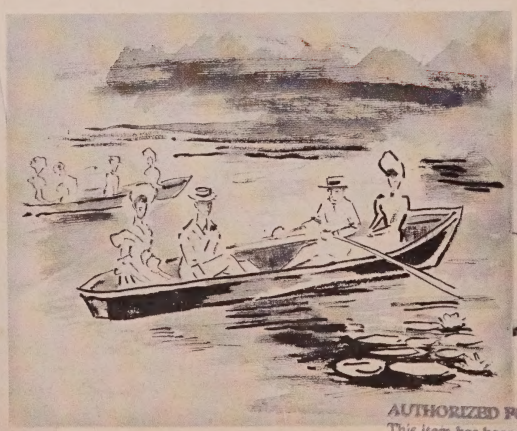

Sketches by CECIL BEATON

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